

Appln. No. 10/697,839

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1888

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-8, and 10-21 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6-8, 10 and 11-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,424,531 to Bhatti et al. (Bhatti) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,196,307 to Ozmat (Ozmat).

The Applicant respectfully submits the attached Declaration of the Mohan Paruchuri Under 37 C.F.R. §1.131, which evidences the conception and reduction to practice of the claimed invention prior to March 13, 2001 (the 102(e) date of the Bhatti reference) and diligence from a date prior to March 13, 2001 to the filing date of the instant application. The applicant respectfully submits that the Bhatti reference is not prior art under 35 U.S.C. §102, and therefore cannot form the basis for a §103(a) rejection. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejections under §103.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of

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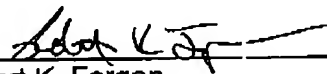
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record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted by,

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